

PHARMACY UPDATES EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2009

Sanford Health Plan is committed to ensuring that our Members receive the best and most appropriate care possible for all medical problems. Our commitment is equally strong when it comes to the use of the most cost effective pharmaceuticals. Due to the large number of new brand and generic drugs that have come on the market in the last few months, the Health Plan's Physician Quality Committee has made the following coverage changes.

Effective immediately:

- The following drugs are not covered:
 1. **Kapidex**
 2. **Lialda**
 3. **Moxatag**
 4. **Rapaflo**
 5. **Toviaz**
 6. **Uloric**
- **Trilipix** is being added to the formulary at the brand (2nd tier) copay level.

Effective May 1, 2009:

- **Vyvanse** is being added to the formulary at the brand (2nd tier) copay level.
- **Ritalin LA** is being removed from the formulary. All current users will be grandfathered at their current copay level. Since the drug will be non-formulary, new users will be charged a higher (3rd tier) copay.
- **Pristiq** is being added to the formulary with a Step Therapy. A 30 day trial of a **generic SSRI** or **generic venlafaxine** will be required prior to the use of **Pristiq**, which will be covered at the brand (2nd tier) copay level.

I would like to remind you that you may want to consider other generic antidepressants (e.g., **bupropion SR, XL** and **mirtazapine**) prior to initiation of a brand name drug. Generics are less costly for your patients and are effective in a large majority of cases.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Dr. Michael Crandell, the Chief Medical Officer at 1-800-805-7938, (605) 328-6807 or email crandelm@sanfordhealth.org.